** LYMES DISEASE**

Lyme disease is caused by the deer tick. The tick bites and injects a bacterium into the skin. Lyme can affect many parts of the body.

What is wrong with the functions of the body?

The stage at which Lyme is at can affect different parts of the body. Initially a bull’s eye rash can occur with a red itchy rash. If not caught in the early stages then the disease can get into the joints and cause severe joint pain and even muscle coordination problems.

Signs and Symptoms:

* Headache,fever,fatigue,joint pain
* Muscle weakness, paralysis, and neurologic conditions(learning difficulties, excessive fatigue, and muscle coordination problems)

The disease is diagnosed with a complete history and physical exam. If the classic bull’s eye is present then the diagnoses is easier and treatment can begin. If no bull’s eye rash or tick is found then blood work is necessary. A positive test result for the Lyme antibody confirms the diagnoses.

Treatment

First if the tick is present it is removed. Then antibiotics are prescribed. Doxycycline is the typical antibiotic used to treat lyme disease.

If lyme disease is treated early then the outcome is good. If however the disease goes untreated some of the effects can cause lasting damage to the joints, heart and nervous system.

The only way to avoid lyme disease is to cover up exposed body part in wooded areas. Examine your clothing when you have been in an area known for having deer ticks.